Adult and non-formal education centres in Himachal Pradesh

258. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adult and non-formal education centres operating in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether all these centres are operating smoothly;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up more such centres in the State; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Continuing Education Centres (CECs) which target Aduit non-literates and neoliterates in the age group of 15—35 years are established under the scheme of Continuing Education. Under the scheme, 2964 Continuing Education Centres have been sanctioned in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. All these Centres are operating smoothly.

The efforts of the Government are to bring all the remaining 11 districts of the State of Himachal Pradesh under the scheme of Continuing Education during Tenth Plan.

The scheme of Non Formal Education has been revised as the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education (EGS & AIE), as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan targeting the age group of 6—14 years and made operational *w.e.f.* 1.4.2001. Hence no funding is being provided to the erstwhile Non Formal Education Centres with effect from 1.4.2001.

The EGS & AIE scheme and District Primary Education Programme provide for opening of Alternative Schools/EGS Centres in habitations, which do not have a school within a radius of 1 km. and adoption of other strategies to meet the varied needs of out of school children. Under the Scheme of District Primary Education Programme, 75 Alternative Learning Schools have been sanctioned, 25 each in Sirmour, Kullu and Chamba districts.

Training-cum-production centres for women in H.P.

259. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: